

## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Johnny Key, Commissioner

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## **Owen Selected for Computer Science Coordinator Position**

**LITTLE ROCK** — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce that Anthony Owen has been selected as the new coordinator of computer science. In this role, Owen will serve as the leader of the computer science initiative in Arkansas. He will begin this new role July 1.

Owen currently serves as ADE's K-12 math and computer science curriculum specialist, a position he has held since 2011. He also serves as the state coordinator of mathematics for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and as an executive board member for the Arkansas Council of Mathematics Teachers. He has coordinated and developed numerous statewide professional development programs for Arkansas educators.

In his new role, Owen will coordinate with Gov. As a Hutchinson's Computer Science Task Force to identify the state's computer science and technology needs and will develop an Arkansas Computer Science Network to connect teachers and representatives from higher education and business and industry to ensure ADE's efforts in computer science are relevant to current trends.

Owen will assist schools with integrating new computer science standards and courses, coordinate with the ADE Licensure Unit regarding certifications and assist with recruiting computer science teachers.

Owen began his career in education as a math and science teacher at Sheridan High School in 2006. He later taught various levels of mathematics at Gurdon High School, Goza Middle School at Arkadelphia and England High School. In addition, he served as a state lead curriculum writer for the Southern Regional Education Board from 2011 to 2013.

He is a member of several educational associations including the Arkansas Association of Mathematical Leaders, Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics, ASCD, Computer Science Teachers Association at the national and state levels, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and National Council of Supervisors of Math.

Owen received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a minor in Education and Computer Science and a Master of Science in Education in Educational Leadership from Henderson State University at Arkadelphia. He received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law in 2013 and has been a member of the Arkansas Bar Association since April 2014.

Computer science has been one of Gov. Hutchinson's major initiatives. A total of \$5 million has been allocated to expand computer science offerings, build teacher capacity and expand workforce readiness for computer science. As part of this funding, beginning computer science grants for schools are available. The deadline to apply has been extended two weeks to June 12. To learn more about the grants, visit the following link: <a href="http://1.usa.gov/1Qk31Cz">http://1.usa.gov/1Qk31Cz</a>. For more information about the Computer Science Initiative, go to <a href="http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/computer-science">http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/computer-science</a>.

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